The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news contents and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields and consider other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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SAVE FOOD—Help Relieve Famine Abroad

WHOLE NO. 1832 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1946 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 36, NO. 21

Congress Holding Club Over Labor In Disputes

Washington, D. C.—Congress is trying to hold a legislative club over labor, ready to swing with new restrictive laws if either the coal or railroad disputes get out of hand.

After a week of debate on anti-labor proposals, the Senate is still engaged in a bitter fight over the Case Bill and amendments proposed by hostile Senators to deal with specific controversies involved in the coal strike.

One group of reactionary Senators, led by the pettifogging Byrd, of Virginia, has marshalled its forces in support of an amendment requiring joint administration of any health or welfare fund established through collective bargaining in industry.

This amendment is aimed at forestalling the United Mine Workers' demand for a health and welfare fund which would be administered solely by the union.

Friends of labor in the Senate were carrying on a last-ditch fight to prevent enactment of this amendment and even more sweeping proposals for the regulation of trade unions.

Senator Morse, of Oregon, warned his colleagues that any legislative curbs against labor will do more harm than good and provoke strikes instead of preventing them.

Likewise Senator Majority Leader Barkley pointed to the anti-Labor War Labor Disputes Act as an example of how legislation of that kind has the opposite effect of what is intended.

President Truman has made no secret of his opposition to drastic legislation hastily enacted but in his talks with legislative leaders he has not indicated specifically whether he would veto an anti-labor bill if Congress enacts it.

Green Smashes NAM Blitz On OPA, Disclosing Record Business Profits

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green smashed reactionary business groups which are seeking to abolish OPA or "stab it in the back" with death-dealing amendments in order to promote unlimited profiteering.

In a Nation-wide radio address over the ABC network, Mr. Green answered charges that the OPA is ruining business by pointing out that commercial bankruptcies are now at the lowest rate in history and that profits in wholesale and retail trade soared to record-breaking peaks in the first quarter of this year.

The AFL chief demanded that OPA be continued for another year without crippling amendments in order to protect American consumers and to maintain the Nation's economy on an even keel. He urged his radio audience to write their Senators supporting extension of the OPA law without any changes.

Mr. Green delivered a stinging attack on the National Association of Manufacturers in his address. He said:

"This organization has spent large sums in lobbying against OPA through paid newspaper advertisements, radio programs and in the halls of Congress itself. Can we trust the welfare of the nation's commercies and good intentions of the National Association of Manufacturers? Its unbroken record of opposition warns us to beware of placing any confidence in its recommendation. It has opposed every progressive step ever taken by our Nation to improve the condition of the American people. It is interested chiefly in higher and higher profits for its members.

"I think it only fair to state that a great many American businessmen disagree entirely with the National Association of Manufacturers on the OPA issue. They realize that OPA protects them as well as consumers by controlling the prices of materials which they must buy and by preventing some massive of economic stability without which they could not take future orders or plan future production.

"Despite the propaganda issued by the National Association of Manufacturers and similar groups, the OPA is not seeking to destroy industry nor has it interfered with or obstructed the expansion of postwar production. This is no mere assertion on my part. The record proves every word of my statement.

"If business were really hurt by OPA controls and manufacturers were being pushed to the wall, we would be able to find evidence of such conditions in the bankruptcy of business failures—the bankruptcy courts is industry going bankrupt because of OPA? Far from it! An Associated Press survey from New York dated May 08 says:

"'Commercial insolvencies currently are at the lowest rate, in proportion to the number of concerns, in the history of American business.'

"That seems to me to be pretty convincing evidence that the sweeping charges leveled at OPA by big business interests have no basis in fact. But there is even more positive evidence.

"As reported in the press, the National City Bank of New York issued a statement last week on industrial profits in the first three months of this year. The statement showed that, except for heavy-goods industries which have been tied up by retooling and labor disputes, profits have jumped from 17 to 171 per cent higher than last year, which was a wartime year.

"Even more significant is the fact that the biggest jump of 171 per cent was registered in the first quarter of this year by wholesale and retail trade, which is most directly affected by OPA price regulations.

"In the face of these figures it seems rather difficult for business in general to maintain that the OPA is crippling it.

"On the contrary, Mr. Green said, the only ones with a legitimate complaint against OPA are the profiteers. He charged the OPA has not been diligent enough in protecting their interests and that its enforcement of price ceilings has been 'glaringly unsatisfactory.' He also alleged that the OPA's failure to wipe out black markets, especially in meat, is costing the American people billions of dollars.

"To say the administrators of OPA are in headlong retreat," Mr. Green continued. "Yielding to outside pressure at times. They realize the need of the agency, the bureaucrats are no longer holding the line against inflation. They letting it bulge in every direction.

"They must stop at once! Enforcement of price controls must be tightened! The black market must be wiped!

"But no matter how much we may dislike OPA, we have at present no alternative to destroy inflation. OPA has it interfered with or obstructed the expansion of postwar production. This is no mere assertion on my part. The record proves every word of my statement.

"If business were really hurt by OPA controls and manufacturers were being pushed to the wall, we would be able to find evidence of such conditions in the bankruptcy of business failures—the bankruptcy courts.

Say, Listen!

Forthcoming radio programs in the "Cross Section—AFL" series broadcast each Saturday at 2:30 p. m. (EST) over the nation-wide Columbia Broadcasting System, are listed below for the information of trade unionists everywhere so that they can make advance plans to tune in:

May 25—Report from the South. George Googe, AFL Regional Director, and Claude Ramsey describe the advances won by AFL organization of southern workers.

June 1—Teamsters. Members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters who operate in the Detroit area will be interviewed from a road-side luncheon.

June 8—Speaking tentatively, Edward J. Volz, President of the International Photo-Engravers Union and the printing trades will be interviewed from the composing room of a newspaper in New York City.

EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN VOTED BY SENATE GROUP

Washington, D. C.—A declaration for equal pay for women in industry and for giving the Secretary of Labor the task of seeing that it is carried out was voted by a Senate Education and Labor Subcommittee.

Reporting to the full committee, the subcommittee asserted that a wage differential "based on sex is an inequity in compensation standards and constitutes an unfair labor practice." The report stated further that the kind of differentials tied to lower rates, lower wages of men as well as women, prevent maintenance of a proper standard of living, endanger national security and obstruct commerce.

HOURLY EARNINGS AT PEAK

Washington, D. C.—A new peak of $1.345 in average hourly earnings of 38 industries was established in March, a study by the National Industrial Conference Board revealed. This, the board reported, was 80.9 percent above the average for 1939.

Weekly earnings also reached a peak in August, 1945, and 94.1 percent above the average for 1939.

NON-FARM JOBS INCREASE

Washington, D. C.—So rapidly did industry expand last month that the number of non-agricultural employes increased 1,500,000 during March to 38,727,000, the highest level since the close of the war, the Labor Department reported.

Executive Council Condemns Greed Of Mine Operators, Pledges Full Support To UMW "Until Victory Is Won"

Reds' Attitude Condemned

Washington, D. C.—Text of AFL Executive Council statement condemning Russia's postwar attitude and demanding toughening of U. S. stand follows:

The Executive Council views with the gravest concern the mounting threat of another world war.

The evidence is clear and menacing. It is now more than a year since V-E Day and nine months after V-J Day, yet world peace has not yet been established. The failure of the Foreign Ministers' Conference at Paris to reach agreement on how peace shall be applied and enforced is bitter and grievously disappointing. Continuation of hostilities in Asia appears to baffle all attempts at settlement.

But more dangerous than these obvious manifestations of unrest and conflict is the deep cleavage in policy which has developed between the United States and Britain on one side and Soviet Russia on the other.

The Executive Council is convinced that further delay and appeasement offer little hope of success and may only widen the breach. We must reach a clear understanding with Russia. If the policy of Soviet Russia is to be "tough," we must show her that we can get tougher in our defense of basic principles.

The American Federation of Labor unequivocally condemns the attitude taken by Soviet Russia since the war ended. In Europe and in Asia, she has employed unilateral instead of consultation with other powers. Russia has seized captured territory, she has brazenly sought to extend her influence and domain over most of Asia and eastern Europe.

In pursuing this policy Soviet Russia has employed the methods of aggression (rather than self-defense). She has trampled on the high principles proclaimed by the United Nations, denying fundamental freedoms to the citizens of other countries and depriving them of self-determination.

The Executive Council considers it significant that the foreign agents of Moscow are again assailing the foreign policy of the United States and accusing this nation of "imperialism." The same propaganda already is being broadcast throughout South America and it even has invaded our shores. At a recent conference in New York city, the chief spokesman of the communist-dominated Latin American Federation of Labor resolutions were adopted condemning the United States and Great Britain for "aggression." While Soviet Russia attempts to hoodwink our colleagues her followers in America are engaged in a campaign to deceive the American people.

The time has come to face these facts. We call upon the Government of the United States to insist that Russia observe her wartime commitments based on the Atlantic Charter.

Council Backs Miners' Fight

Washington, D. C.—Text of declaration by the AFL Executive Council on the United Mine Workers' demand for a health and welfare fund follows:

The Executive Council, after giving careful consideration to the issues involved in the coal dispute, has come to the unanimous conclusion that the United Mine Workers' demand for a health and welfare fund is entirely justified in carrying on the fight for the establishment of a health and welfare fund for the coal miners of the nation.

We wish to emphasize that in pressing this fight the United Mine Workers Union is carrying out the expressed determination of its members to protect themselves against the inhuman conditions under which they are forced to work.

The facts leave no room for debate. We find:

1—That each year thousands of miners are slaughtered or crippled by preventable mine accidents because of inadequate inspections and the greedy and grudging attitude of mine operators toward safety.

2—That the compensation for injured miners and the dependents of those killed in mine accidents falls far short of even a minimum standard of human decency.

3—That the evils of the company doctor system deprive the miners of the opportunity for proper medical care and hospitalization.

4—That miners have been denied the economic strength to correct such intolerable conditions.

Can the American people fail to condemn the coal operators for stubbornly refusing to grant the just demands of their employes?

The coal operators have rejected the union's proposal for a health and welfare fund on the ground that it is a new and revolutionary procedure. This position is completely at variance with the facts.

Health and welfare funds have been established to protect mine workers in foreign countries. Shall America lag behind other countries in safeguards for its workers?

Similar welfare systems are in effect in other industries in America, such as the garment and building trades. Is it reasonable to refuse a health and welfare fund to the miners who are engaged in a much more hazardous occupation?

The Executive Council is convinced that the proposed health and welfare fund will prove a great boon to the mining industry, by preventing accidents, protecting consumers against profiteering the mine owners and alleviating human suffering.

We wish to let it be known that the American Federation of Labor supports the fight of the miners of America to the fullest extent in this emergency. The coal miners are not fighting a job for the justice they deserve. The seven million members of the American Federation of Labor will back them up to the limit until victory is won.

25% War Workers Found Out of Jobs

Washington, D. C.—In a formal report on workers' experiences in the first phase of reconversion," the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department declared that seven large, four former war workers was involuntarily unemployed five to seven months after V-J Day, an even larger proportion had moved from the communities in which they held war jobs, and those who still had jobs found salary cuts in weekly earnings sufficient to cut their purchasing power below that of 1941.

In contrast to the experience of war workers, non-war workers held their jobs and increased their earnings much more generally, the survey showed. Moreover, the non-war jobs were employed and less than seven percent had migrated. More than three-fourths continued at work in the plants where they were employed last spring. Workers who kept their jobs are found new ones were earning 31 percent less a week than the war rate. The weekly earnings of non-war workers were down only 10 percent over the same period.

AFL UNIONS IN ANACONDA GRANTED WAGE INCREASE

Washington, D. C.—Unanimous approval of an 18½-cent hourly pay increase, retroactive to April 1, was accorded Copper Mining Co. was announced by the Wage Stabilization Board. Unions concerned are the AFL Building and Construction and Metal Trades Departments and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL) will benefit.

The raise involves 22 mines in Butte, Mont., and operations of a refinery, milling, smelting and refining plants in Butte and Great Falls, Mont.

Rail Telegraphers Report Progress

Columbus, Ohio—Meeting for the first time since 1942, the Order of Railroad Telegraphers heard reports of steady and significant progress despite great handicaps imposed by the war, President M. J. Gardner was prepared to report a healthy gain in membership—some 16 percent since the last convention, largest since, at any time since 1930.

Wages of telegraphers, it was revealed, are at an all-time peak. During the last four years the income of telegraphers in the United States has risen 25 cents an hour and in Canada $32.41 a month. These wages, however, are still low compared with earnings by other comparable skills.

Mr. Gardner believes. More than 500 delegates from all sections of the United States, Canada, Newfoundland and the Canal Zone reported for the sessions.

PLATE PRINTERS HOLD CONVENTION IN CAPITAL

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green, addressing the opening session of the International Plate Printers here, emphasized the determination of the AFL to wage continued warfare against any efforts by Communists to infiltrate into the American labor movement. Reiterating the stand of the Federation against Red influences, he declared the seven million AFL members "are purely American" and will always remain so.

Other speakers included Alex Smith, of Ottawa, president of the International Cash Register Union; Robert J. Patterson, president of the Metal Trades Department, AFL; Joseph Rowan, president of Plate Printers Union No. 2.

COUNCIL ASKS TRUMAN FOR SMALL DISMISSAL

Washington, D. C.—In one of the most sharply-worded statements issued since convening of its spring sessions here, the AFL Executive Council called on President Truman to ask for the resignation of Civilian Production Administrator John D. Small for his "irresponsible suggestions" that Congress ban strikes for six months.

That any Government official should go far forget himself as to advocate the virtual enslavement of American workers at a time when private industry denying them the right to strike against injustice is inexcusable," the Council declared.

"In seeking to capture headlines by his statement, Mr. Small implied that a strike, regardless of its merits, is illegal or harmful. Even the anti-labor members of Congress promptly rejected such a Communist-Fascist doctrine."

COUNCIL FURTHERS SOUTHERN DRIVE

Group Directs Appointment of Co-ordinator and Policy Committee

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council, in session here, took steps to implement the AFL drive for a million new members in the South.

It directed that a campaign coordinator be appointed and that a policy committee be set up to work with him until the drive is concluded. The policy group will be composed of southern AFL leaders.

AFL President William Green, immediately following issuance of the Council's statement, said chairman the coordinator will be George L. Googe, new executive secretary of organization in the South. Each southern State Federation of Labor and each local central labor council will appoint its own organizing committee and their work will be coordinated by Mr. Googe.

The policy committe, Mr. Green said, will be composed of 20 or 30 seasoned AFL leaders, representing both international and national groups and the State Federations.

"Our mission is a labor organization is to organize the unorganized workers of the South and to increase their working and living standards," the Council said. "There is no section of the Nation which needs organizing more dangerously than these ofthe South. We believe the success of our organizing campaign will prove beneficial not only to Southern workers, but also to Southern industry and agriculture."

Three basic principles by which the AFL campaign will be guided were laid down by the Council, which announced:

1. Its primary objectives will be economic, rather than political.

2. It will offer the benefits of unionism to all workers, regardless of race, color or creed.

3. It will be carried on "by an organization with no undeviating loyalty to the United States of America."

Extension of the full facilities of the AFL to those engaged in the drive was authorized by the Council, chief of the Labor's Non-Partisan League, and international, to assign organizers to supplement and support the campaign.

"We call on all local unions in the South to join city central bodies and State Federations of Labor in making this a united and successful effort," the Council said.

PHOTO-ENGRAVERS CITED FOR AID ON WAR LOANS

Washington, D. C.—Edward J. Volz, president of the International Photo-Engravers' Union (AFL) was presented by the U. S. Treasury with a Silver Medal award and an honorary citation for distinguished service in War and Victory Loan campaigns to finance the war effort. WPA Chairman J. A. Krug also presented Mr. Volz with a similar certificate for services to the war effort as a member of the Labor-Advisory Committee, Printing and Publishing Division.

ILGWU PRESENTS $75,000 TO RUSSIAN RELIEF DRIVE

New York City.—A contribution of $75,000 to the American Society for Russian Relief of Labor is announced by David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union (AFL), and archfoe of Communist influence in American affairs.

Announcement of the gift was made by the Greater New York Committee for Russian Relief, which hailed it as "the greatest sense of encouragement" to the efforts of the committee in its campaign for relief funds.

Health and Welfare Fund Fight Fully Justified, AFL Says as Government Mine Seizure Impends In Strike Deadlock

Washington, D. C.—Placing responsibility for the coal shutdown on the "uncompromising" attitude of the mine owners, the AFL Executive Council pledged full support to the United Mine Workers of America "until victory is won."

This means, AFL President William Green told a press conference, that the seven million members of the Federation will back up the coal miners "morally, financially and politically."

The Executive Council's sweeping endorsement of the union's demand for a health and welfare fund broke the wave of denunciation which had been rolling up against UMW President John L. Lewis and served notice to the Nation that the mine union leader is not carrying on his fight alone and unbefriended.

The controversy was rapidly heading toward a new crisis as the mining truce granted by the union neared its end and the deadlock in negotiations between the UMW and the coal operators remained unbroken. Reports persisted that the Government plans to seize and operate the mines under an agreement to be worked out with the union, the anti-labor bloc in Congress rushed efforts to enact legislation which would outlaw the very things the miners are fighting for.

Mr. Lewis appeared at a morning session of the Executive Council, of which he is a member, to give his colleagues the "inside story" of the negotiations to date. He was not present, however, at the afternoon session when the Council reached its decision and drafted its declaration.

Another outstanding development as the Executive Council ended the first week of its Spring meeting was the issuance of a solemn warning that the clouds of another world war are gathering because of the aggressive actions of Soviet Russia since V-J Day. The Council demanded that the United States force a showdown with Russia to prevent new world peace.

In its resolution on the coal strike, the Council unhesitatingly and unanimously gave the union's proposal for a health and welfare fund unqualified support. It said:

"Health and welfare funds have been established to protect mine workers in Great Britain, Spain and India. Shall America lag behind other countries in safeguards for its workers?

The Council pointed out that similar health and welfare funds are in operation in other American industries, including the garment and electrical trades. It demanded to know on what grounds it is reasonable to refuse such benefits to miners, engaged in a far more hazardous occupation.

"Going the heavy toll of death and injuries in coal mines each year, the Council sharply contrasted the safety measures for their greedy and begrudging policy toward safety installations."

Declaring that "the facts leave no room for debate," the Council charged that thousands of miners are "slaughtered or crippled each year by preventable mine accidents," and that compensation for injured miners and the dependents of those killed "falls far short of even a minimum standard of human decency."

The evils of the company doctor system, the council said, deprives the miners of the opportunity for proper medical care and hospitalization. The proposed health and welfare fund, the statement asserted, will prove a great boon to the mining industry in accident prevention, reduction of occupational diseases and alleviation of suffering as against the "inhuman conditions" under which miners have been compelled to work.

"We wish to let it be known," the Council declared, "that the American Federation of Labor supports the fight of the miners to the fullest extent in this emergency. The coal miners are not fighting alone for the justice they deserve. The seven million members of the AFL will back them to the limit."

The Council, while blasting at Russia for interfering with efforts of the United Nations to establish world peace, was issued several days before Secretary of State Byrnes, in a report to the Nation, made it clear that the Soviet Union is also stumbling unnecessarily in other areas.

"Gravest concern" over the increasing threat of another world war was expressed by the Council, which asserted "the evidence is clear and menacing." Calling attention to the fact that more than a year has elapsed since V-E Day and nine months since V-J Day, it deplored the inability of the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Paris to chart a road for enforcing European peace or end hostilities in Asia.

"But more dangerous than these obvious manifestations of unrest and conflict," the Council's statement declared, "is the deep cleavage in policy which has developed between the United States on one side and Soviet Russia on the other.

"The Executive Council is convinced that further delay and appeasement offer little hope of success and may only widen the breach. We must reach a clear understanding with Russia. If the policy of Soviet Russia is to be 'tough,' we must show her that we can get tougher in our defense of basic principles."

The attitude of Russia since the end of the war was "unequivocally condemned" by the Council, which declared the Soviet has resorted to "main force instead of consultation with other powers" in seizing what it desired in territory.

Agents of Moscow again are assailing the foreign policy of the United States, the Council pointed out, and accusing this nation of "imperialism," which already is being broadcast throughout South America and "has even invaded our shores," the Council said.

"The time has come to face these facts," the Council concluded. "We call upon the Government of the United States to insist that Russia observe her war-time commitments based on the Atlantic Charter."

Unemployment Tax Cut of 1 Percent Is Urged On Congress By Altmeyer

Washington, D. C.—Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board, asked Congress to cut the unemployment tax rate from 3 to 2 percent.

He also asked a reduction of from 2.7 to 1.7 percent in the rate at which permitted employers in States which enacted unemployment compensation laws.

Testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee in behalf of his recommendation for a national system of unemployment compensation to overcome the inherent defects in the State-by-State system. For example, he said, maritime workers are not insurable on a State basis and fitting them into a State system would be "cumbersome at best."

In support of his proposed cuts in the tax rate and employer credit, he disclosed that States now have on deposit with the Federal Treasury nearly $7,000,000,000—or the equivalent of more than four years of employer contributions.

"Even if we should have as many as 3,500,000 unemployed," he added, "the average State would be able to finance benefits with a contribution rate of less than 2 percent without being required to draw upon accumulated reserves.

"If it were felt that some States might draw down their reserves to a dangerously low level, a suitable provision could be incorporated in Federal legislation to prevent it."

ILLINOIS BAKERS GRANTED AVERAGE 30% PAY RAISE

Springfield, Ill.—Announcement was made of an agreement on wages and hour contracts covering 2,000 AFL bakery and confectionery union employes in Springfield, Decatur, Peoria and two Iowa communities. Details were disclosed by a negotiating committee representing the union and wholesale bakeries.

The agreement provides overall 30 percent average pay raises and overtime for work in excess of six hours and 40 minutes daily. Bakers also will be paid 40 hours for 35 hours and 20 minutes actual work in weeks where holidays occur. Holiday work will involve extra compensation.

AFL UNIONS ESTABLISH FOUNDATION TO AID WORKER

Kansas City, Mo.—The Bernett Foundation, designed to aid needy AFL members in this section, has been established by the AFL unions here, it was announced. Plans have been made for eventual erection of a hospital and home.

The foundation has been incorporated and is named for W. J. Bernett, a veteran member of the United Association of Plumbers, who was instrumental in devising the plan. He is executive secretary of the new enterprise. Funds will be raised by sale of car stickers, presentation of a musical show and Christmas seal sales.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WRITE OR WIRE YOUR SENATORS TO SAVE OPA

WILLIAM GREEN, President — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1946

Postwar Wage Drop Exposed In AFL's Report To Senators

Final Session of Council Declares Pay Lags Behind Price Rises

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council concluded its Spring session here by making public a detailed report emphasizing the wage inequities imposed upon American labor since the end of the war.

Outstanding conclusions of the report were summed up in these words:

"Wage income and wage rates have been on a downward trend since April, 1945. Continuing control of wages is unwarranted under these conditions and can only result in the freezing of wage standards out of all relation to the cost of living.

"Consumer prices are continuing their upward march. They must be curbed until full production, sufficient to meet the demand, is attained—and no longer."

The report was presented to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee by AFL President William Green on request of Senator Taft of Ohio and Mitchell of Washington for exact information of wage declines and steady price increases.

The report documents these nihilistic findings:

1—Between January 1941 and April 1945 wartime average gross weekly income of manufacturing wage-earners rose from $26.64 to $47.12, an increase of 76.9 percent. More than half of this increase in gross income was offset by the rise in the cost of living, with the result that gross real earnings rose by only 34.9 percent. This was further offset by the rising wartime taxes. During the war period, real earnings after taxes increased from $25.57 to $34.25 per week, or only 29.8 percent for a worker with three dependents and from $21.41 to $28.82, or only 17.4 percent for a single worker.

2—Wartime wage income rose from extremely low levels, but was repressed by widespread unemployment. In January 1941 there were still 7,600,000 unemployed. In January 1941, one-third of all Americans, 18 million families and individuals, 9 out of 10 million men, women and children, had just rounded out the 3rd peacetime year of poverty—with average family income totaling only $627.

3—Wage income during the war rose mainly because casual and part-time workers became full-time employes; all wage earners worked longer hours; many on night and Sunday shifts received premium pay; many in low-paid jobs were advanced to positions of higher pay, and numerous wage adjustments were made for small groups to equalize rates for the same work.

4. Actual wage rates in manufacturing advanced only 18.4 percent between January 1941 and April 1945. Most of this advance took place before the "hold-the-line" order of April 1, 1943. Between that date and April 1945, wage rates advanced only 2 percent, as the wage freeze became increasingly severe.

5. As a general rule, wartime wage rates failed to reflect the increase in output per man-hour. In munitions industries, for example, between 1941 and December 1944 man-hour productivity rose 72 percent. During the same time, straight-time hourly earnings in durable goods industries (almost entirely converted to munitions) rose by 16.3 percent.

6. Despite postwar increases in wage rates won by unions, wage income has been continuously and drastically declining. Between April 1945 and February 1946, weekly earnings in all manufacturing decreased 13.8 percent, while wages in durable goods dropped 17.2 percent. During the same time real weekly earnings fell 13.2 percent in manufacturing and 18.6 percent in durable goods. This drop took place despite an increase in "upped" straight-time hourly earnings of 4.5 percent in manufacturing and 2.4 percent in durable goods. Reason is largely attributable to the disappearance of overtime and extensive postwar downgrading.

7. When we had 7.6 million unemployed in January 1941, weekly payrolls in manufacturing were $259 million. On November 15-16 they reached $650 million. By February 1946 payrolls were down to $379 million. Half of the wartime increase in wage earnings has already been wiped out.

SURVEY REVEALS WOMEN SHARE IN ALL UNION GAINS

Washington, D. C.—The great progress made by labor unions in seeking that women receive equal pay for equal working conditions accorded men was outlined in a report by the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department after a detailed survey.

The report said that women form 80 percent of the membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (AFL), 40 percent of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers (AFL) and 50 percent of the United Textile Workers (AFL). Besides women have received through unions higher pay, equal pay for equal time, better jobs, with equal opportunity for promotion, higher wages, shorter hours, paid vacations, seniority rights, improved working conditions and community services, such as child care centers.

AFL Leaders Ask Truman To Aid German Unionists

Washington, D. C.—Three AFL leaders asked President Truman at a White House conference to take steps which would permit the regeneration of a free trade-union movements in the American-occupied zone in Germany.

The delegation, consisting of President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Vice President Matthew Woll, recommended that American authorities first restore to the German unions the property confiscated from them by Hitler during the Nazi regime.

They also urged that surplus American agricultural and industrial office equipment, be made available to the anti-Nazi German labor unions because such materials are otherwise unobtainable in the occupied zones.

President Truman indicated he felt the requests were reasonable and promised to take up the matter with the military authorities in charge of occupation policies.

The AFL leaders emphasized that the free trade-union movement in Germany was crushed by the Nazis and that it must be restored before the war and could be reinstated as a powerful factor for peace and freedom in the postwar period.

They also asked the President to lift restrictions and red tape now interfering with the sending of food and relief to workers in Germany by their relatives in this country.

U. S. Must Shoulder Responsibility To Chart Peace Path, Council Warns

Washington, D. C.—An emphatic reminder that the United States must fulfill its responsibility of international leadership to guide a troubled world to lasting peace was issued at the closing session of the AFL Executive Council.

At the same time the Council warned the Government that it must guard the policies laid down in the Atlantic Charter by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

In a sweeping discussion of this Nation's foreign policy, the delay in achieving peace and effective relief for starving millions, the Council said:

The first concern of mankind today is the rebuilding of the war-ravaged world on a basis of just and lasting peace and on a foundation of abundance.

Our country has responsibility to exercise international leadership, but with consistency and vigor—for the achievement of this paramount goal. We want no one-man rule in the U. S., there is still no world peace. Not a single peace treaty has been signed. Famine and pestilence are threatening Europe and large sections of Asia. The fascist totalitarian foes have been beaten on the field of battle. Democracy has scored a world-wide moral triumph, but the menace of political despotism and one-party dictatorship confronts the world. Formerly independent countries have lost self-determination and are controlled by secret police. A decade of democratic institutions are imprisoned or liquidated. Between warring different groups in neighboring countries. Armies of occupation continue to confront each other with guns. Two peoples of a formerly friendly nation are split. The big powers have disregarded the Atlantic Charter principles which rallied nations to war are neglected in building of peace and the unity of the United Nations is threatened.

Power politics is the order of the day. Instead of the world security called to consider steps toward peace and world cooperation only aggravates the differences and widens the gaps between the victorious powers of yesterday.

The moral situation has deteriorated acutely. The causes of deterioration began as Yalta where the basis was laid for strangling the emerging democratic forces in eastern Europe and the Balkans. Without minimizing the great contributions of the Soviet people to the victory over the common enemy, it must be said that the Russian government has utilized the sacrifices of its people for U. S. S. R. as an excuse for pursuing a policy of territorial imperialism, expansion and aggrandizement. The United Nations has gotten off to a poor start—dominated by the Soviet veto power to serve its own rules and tragically weakened by unilateral action.

It is obvious that the Big Four occupation policy of dividing conquered countries into zones is a failure. Thus, instead of concentrating on the re-education of the German people as a democratic whole, the Big Four try on a democratic basis, the Big Four try on a democratic basis, the Big Four have made Germany into zones dividing it up into four zones without regard for the economic needs and welfare of Europe. Instead of reconstructing Germany's industry and utilizing the skill of its workers for the purposes of peace and the economic reconstruction of the continent, the industrial-dismantling-for-reparations schemes have been launched in the heart of Europe's heart of Europe. Instead of fostering and aiding the restoration and growth of such primary democratic institutions as labor unions as free trade unions, half-hearted denazification schemes, forced merging of political parties and the restriction of the right of free association in unions and political parties have become the established practices in the various zones of occupied Germany. Similar policies have been followed in Austria.

Instead of treating democratic co-belligerent Italy as a liberated country, the Big Three have approached the problem of the treaty of peace settlement as if it were a treaty to be signed with a vanquished hostile country despite the democratic gains and promises made to the Italian people. When one power has failed to overthrow a Fascist dictatorship.

Only in Japan has the cause of democratic regeneration made any headway at all. But even here it is questionable how long it will be before General MacArthur's authority and far-sighted leadership is interfered with and paralyzed by the introduction of power politics. The plight of Korea should put our government on guard against making concessions to weaken General MacArthur's powers and policies. The tense situation in China is another demonstration of communist fifth column methods of aggression.

To overcome this distressing international situation and to promote a lasting and effective peace, and cooperation particularly among all nations, the American Federation of Labor proposes the following measures be taken:

(1) A return to the Atlantic Charter and a loyal adherence to its principles as the guide for all peace policies.

(2) Transformation of the United Nations Organization into an effective agency of nations responsible for preserving world peace, strengthening the cause of world security, and promoting human freedom and welfare.

(3) We urge that democratic nations governing liberated countries set up democratic unions to support upon them the responsibility and opportunity of reviving free trade unionism and supply them with the necessary office equipment and means of communication and travel. We urge similar policies to restore cooperative undertakings.

(4) That a peace conference should be called at an early date. The President's proposal for a proposal of such a conference. Small nations should participate in deliberations and decisions.

(5) The spokesmen of free trade unions should be drawn into the deliberations and advisory capacity assumed in the making of decisions affecting the peace and prosperity of the world.

(6) Our Government should initiate, United Nations action for overcoming the threat of famine and for the relief of the millions of displaced and uprooted persons in a humane and fair manner and according them such assistance as will enable them to start in life and doing their part in insuring a free, peaceful, and prosperous world.

PLUMBERS' OFFICIAL DIES

Washington, D. C.—Frank J. Kennedy, assistant general secretary of the Plumbers' Association of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, died at his home here after an illness of several months. Kennedy was active in the labor movement for many years and had been a leading officer in his local union. In 1940 he became assistant general organizer for the international union. Since 1921 he had been assistant secretary of the association.

MAIL ORDER FIRM IS FINED IN CHILD LABOR VIOLATION

Washington, D. C.—A fine of $25,600—largest ever imposed for violation of the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act—was levied against Spiegel, Inc., Chicago mail order firm, Katherine Ellickson, head of the Labor Department's Children's Bureau, announced.

AFL UNIONS SEEKING MARITIME COUNCIL

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced he will call a conference soon to form a new Maritime Council composed of AFL affiliates which cover the waterfront and operate ships.

Invited to the conference will be the representatives of the Seafarers International Union, the International Longshoremen's Association, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Masters, Mates and Pilots, th cradio operators' division of the Commercial Telegraphers Union and perhaps several additional groups.

By joining forces together for action on mutual problems these organizations can function more effectively in the maritime field, Mr. Green explained.

The conference was proposed by the unions and approved by the AFL Executive Council. Eventually the maritime group may be formed into an AFL department, similar to the Building Trades and the Metal Trades.

The AFL first considered creation of a Maritime Trades Department in 1941 when the Seattle convention authorized such a department if the unions affected were willing to form one. At that time no final agreement was reached and the matter was held in abeyance until a new movement for a solid maritime front took place. The organizations which formerly were members of Maritime Department have now changed their views, Mr. Green said.

Special significance was attached to the projected grouping of the maritime unions of the AFL by news of the announced determination of Communist-dominated rival organizations in the CIO to call a maritime strike June 15.

Mr. Green said he firmly expected that the AFL unions will pay no attention to such a CIO strike and will fulfil their contracts with employers.

Speaking at a Maritime Day observance in New York, Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremens' Association (AFL), called for continuance of the "side-by-side" policy carried out by management and labor during the war.

Unity by both groups, he said, is the best insurance for the success of the merchant marine. He declared that, regardless of differences in other fields of labor, the maritime industry must unite solidly to work its own problems and establish long-lasting accord.

Fire Fighters Elect John P. Redmond

Washington, D. C.—Election of John P. Redmond of Chicago as president of the International Association of Fire Fighters, succeeding Fred W. Baer, who died May 15, was announced by the union's executive board.

Mr. Redmond has resigned as Director of Selective Service Training Department to assume the full-time duties of his new post. He formerly served in the Illinois State Legislature for the 8th district, comprising five mid-western States. The board elected George Kaiser of Grand Rapids, Mich., to take over the vice president's duties for the duration.

Joining the Chicago Fire Department in 1912, Mr. Redmond started as driver for Engine Co. No. 76. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1922 and to captain in 1926. He successfully passed every Civil Service examination from driver to Division Marshal in the Department.

He joined the Firemen's Association of Chicago (the local) unit of the International Union, and soon entered the fire service and took an active part in the campaign to institute the two-platoon system in that city which was won in 1917. He served on every wage scale committee of the local union, which was instrumental in raising the pay of Chicago firemen from $1,210 to $2210 in his lifetime. He also served as a member of the legislative committee which won a campaign for establishment of the present annuity and benefit fund for firemen.

Postal Pay Raise Hailed By Doherty

Washington, D. C.—Signing by President Truman of the Post Office pay increase bill, giving 400,000 postal workers, was hailed by William C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL), as a mile-stone in the long struggle of postal workers to improve their situation.

"The signature of this bill, providing an increase of $400 per year, is to a successful conclusion our long campaign for an adequate wage scale," he said. "The increase applies to all postal employes and is retroactive to July 1, 1945.

"We are most grateful to the Congressional champions and to the American public for their enthusiastic support. During the entire campaign we had the wholehearted support of the AFL. We shall always remember with gratitude the part played in the successful enactment of the bill by Mead and Representative Rizch, who introduced the measure, and Senator McKellar and Representative George O'Brien of Michigan, who introduced a bill containing the exact terms of the bill finally approved."

Strike By Two Independents Halts Nation's Rail System

Government Seizes Mines, Talks Terms With Lewis

Washington, D. C.—The United States Government seized the Nation's coal mines by order of President Truman and began negotiations with the United Mine Workers of America on the terms of a new contract.

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug was commissioned by the President to seek an agreement with the union and in conferences with the union's leaders attempted to draft the terms of a settlement.

However, the union gave no assurance that the coal miners would continue to operate the mines under Government seizure after the expiration of the temporary truce unless a satisfactory contract is negotiated.

Indications were that behind-the-scenes-maneuvers by Reconversion Director Snyder were interfering with the negotiations. It was reported that Snyder was insisting that Krug be not permitted to offer the union better terms than the coal mine owners had done previously. Under these circumstances, it was believed that the mine workers would refuse to submit them to a vote.

Secretary Krug named Vice Admiral Ben Moreell of the United States Navy, who has a fine record in relations with labor unions, to serve as his operating chief in charge of the mines.

In his Executive Order the President authorized Krug to offer new terms to the union, "subject to the national wage and price stabilization policies."

The Secretary of Interior was authorized and directed by the Executive Order to "make such customary working conditions in the mines and customary procedure for the adjustment of workers' grievances. He shall recognize the right of the workers to continue their membership in any labor organization, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing and to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection, provided that such concerted activities do not interfere with the operation of the mines."

While reports were current that Krug was preparing to offer the union a compromise on its demand for a health and welfare fund, this could not be substantiated.

Senate Adopts Anti-Labor Clause; Nearing Final Action On Case Bill

Washington, D. C.—Without having the faintest idea of the effect of the clause, the Senate embedded in the perilous course of enacting anti-labor legislation the two words of stormy debate, dragging out into long night sessions, the chamber adopted the Ball amendment to the bill to create a joint-union-management administration of industrial health and welfare funds.

The avowed objective of this legislation is to curb the domination of the United Mine Workers of America for a health and welfare fund in the coal industry. But the amendment is worded so broadly that it would affect every union in the nation.

The Byrd amendment was adopted by a vote of 48 to 39 at a Senate session which lasted long after midnight. It followed overwhelming defeat of a substitute amendment offered by Senator Pepper, voicing Government endorsement of labor-management boards of health and welfare funds.

Friends of labor in the Senate warned against action by Congress restricting or curbs the fundamental freedoms of organized labor appeared to have no effect on Congress.

went unheeded as the lawmakers, angered by the railroad and coal strikes, proceeded on the hazardous course of legislating against unions.

Observers said that two amendments are still pending before the Senate which is considering the vicious Republican-approved Case Bill. In its present mood, the Senate is likely to adopt the most extreme proposals.

Nevertheless, labor leaders scored a blitzkrieg from Congress. Many Senators who in the past consistently refused to go along with anti-labor proposals have flatly indicated their intention of "passing a law" even though they know that no law will "pass a miner" and end strikes.

Union legislative representatives were helpless to stem the tide of anti-labor sentiment arising from the strikes which are hampering the nation's economy and threats of further strikes.

Even the fact that President Truman will probably veto any bill which would curb the fundamental freedoms of organized labor appeared to have no effect on Congress.

CROSS SECTION--AFL

No. 7—Ladies' Garment Workers

(Featuring William Genberg, director of the management efficiency laboratory of ILGWU; William Ruffenman, manager of a garment factory; a Red Cross official; and members of the union, interviewed at New York by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator.)

New York City.—The far-flung activities of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to expand the benefits of the union, improve manufacturing techniques, train apprentices and create new opportunities for its members were vividly explained by union and management spokesmen in an interview conducted by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator, and broadcast over a Nation-wide hookup.

Declaring the purpose of the management efficiency laboratory set up by the union is to enable manufacturers to maintain their competitive efficiency, Louis Hollander, president of the union, is completing engineering service to management "without telling them how to run their plants."

Commenting upon this, Hefferman, manager of the Blossom Products Corp. of Allentown, Penn., has been a client of ladies' garment union's efficiency laboratory.

"I think any up-to-date management that has a union in its plant," he said, "or a piece-work system, should be very glad to have an intelligent department of the union to go to with their problems and consider them on an equal basis."

Paul E. Newman, veteran garment worker, drew a sharp contrast between conditions of today and those of earlier years, when many factories were without adequate heating, ventilation, sanitary facilities or even adequate illumination except by gas jets, and fifth and dirt were common in the industry.

"I remember working from 70 to 80 hours a week, seven days a week," he said. "The earnings ranged from one to three dollars a week for youngsters, five or six dollars a week for operators, and the skilled mechanics did not earn more than 12 dollars a week. The factories were practically fire traps."

Today, Newman said, the industry, through a joint board of sanitary control, is helping health facilities comparable to the best in any field.

Mark Starr, union educational director, said the organization develops study classes of every kind and has a cultural and recreational division as well as a health center. Among newcomers in the union are Miss Mildred Herstein, daughter of an ex-War, formerly with the Army Air Forces and now studying labor and human relations problems at Harvard University; Miss Dorin, member of Local 89, Cloak Operators' Union, who will be helpful to other members of the union.

Miss Ying of Chungking said the vocational training school in that city, established by the union's gift of $150,000, takes care of nearly 1,000 boys and girls, all war orphans. Their education is free and they are provided with food, clothes and shelter.

Mrs. David Challender, of the New York Chapter of the Red Cross, paid tribute to the financial and other assistance given her organization by the union, both in war and peace. She described the ILGWU as "one of the most faithful groups" the Red Cross had in the blood donor drive.

Miss Blanche Tobias of Local 22 explained that the union had set up relief funds in England, the Roosevelt Vocational School in Italy and in planning other schools in Palestine, Poland and France.

Irene Carrasco, disabled veteran of the Spanish civil war, who is a member of the union, told the radio audience he was unemployed after his release from the service until he learned that he could take a course, under auspices of the union, at Fall River, Mass. He is learning to operate a sewing machine and expects eventually to earn a substantial income. Some 200 other veterans are taking the same or similar courses there, he said.

Trainmen, Engineers, Quit; All AFL Unions Agree On Truman's Terms

Washington, D. C.—Refusal of two independent brotherhoods to accept settlement terms offered by President Truman resulted in a nation-wide railroad strike which, if prolonged, may cripple the national economy.

All sixteen AFL unions in the railroad field accepted the President's offer of an 18½-cent hourly wage increase, as did two of the independent brotherhoods. However, the Engineers and the Trainmen rejected the settlement and all train transportation ground to a dead stop.

Negotiations between leaders of the recalcitrant unions and John R. Steelman, Presidential labor adviser, were continuing as this edition went to press and hopes still were held out for a possible early termination of the conflict.

The Government has seized the railroads but as yet has given no evidence of attempting to operate them despite the strike.

However, the Office of Defense Transportation immediately condemned all other forms of transportation, including airplane, truck, ship and bus lines in order to provide emergency service and assure continued operation of the mails.

The public was warned against starting runs on food stores in the cities, as it was believed certain amble supplies could be kept flowing during the emergency by other means of transportation.

Leaders of the Engineers and Trainmen's brotherhoods curtly rejected the President's settlement terms because it ignored the unions' demands for changes in the rules governing working conditions, which were described as the "most important issue" in the controversy.

Although the President offered a 18½ cents hourly wage increase, that is 1½ cents higher than that recommended by the fact-finding board, the unions said his proposal fell short of establishing parity because the board had suggested several changes in the rules.

"We have told you many times that the present agitation among the men in service is extremely serious and that their demands could not be abandoned or disregarded and, therefore, your offer is unacceptable," the two unions wrote to the President.

A. F. Whitney, President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and A. Johnston, head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, signed the letter.

The strike broke the railroad unions' almost perfect no-strike record which has been maintained since the passage of the Railway Labor Act more than twenty years ago. While that law does not forbid strikes, it provides for mediation of fact-finding machinery which until now had functioned successfully.

The public, although seriously inconvenienced by the strike, appeared to back it in the apparent belief that a quick settlement would be reached. However, the anti-labor drive exploded in a new furore of abusive editorials and cartoons, while anti-labor members of Congress enjoyed the field day of denunciation. The fact that 18 out of the 20 railroad unions, including all the AFL unions involved, accepted the settlement and did not order the strike, was ignored by the labor-baiting agitators.

Stassen Demands Cabinet Shake-up

Chicago.—Sharp criticism of the economic policies of the Administration, coupled with a demand for prompt removal of three Cabinet figures, was voiced by Ex-Lieut. Harold Stassen of Minnesota in an address before the convention of the Inland Press Association.

Declaring Secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach, Commerce Secretary Henry A. Wallace and Economic Stabilization Director Chester Bowles should be outlawed, Stassen said, because they have the "major responsibility for the failure of the economic policies of the Nation to unfold, Stassen told the editors. "The politics of favoritism in Government, he said, has largely responsible for the "economic confusion" which has confronted the country since the end of the war.